

- Other costs associated with the evaluation may include: mileage (charged at the IRS allowable rate, copies, postage, expense of obtaining records, etc. Clients must remain current on all charges or the evaluation will be put on hold until such charges are current.
- Family Service Agency's Center for Counseling makes no guarantees as to the outcome of the evaluation. This report is only one piece of information the Judge may utilize in making a final custody / visitation determination.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
Center For Counseling
Child Life & Family Education
Children's Advocacy Center
Senior Services Center

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Custody Evaluation

Helping you and your children
during the period of pre and post
divorce adjustment



Family Service Agency is a United Way agency.



Family Service Agency's Custody Evaluation

Thank you for selecting Family Service Agency's Center for Counseling for your Custody Evaluation.

The evaluation will entail the collection of information through interviews and corroborating sources. Only in unusual circumstances will friends or neighbors be interviewed. As an example, information may be sought from church leaders, teachers, therapists, physicians, DCFS and criminal background checks. Psychological testing may also be an aspect of the evaluation. This information will be used to generate a report. The report will summarize the information gathered with guidelines to the court on issues of custody, time-sharing and other individual or family concerns. The report will be submitted to the Court.

The goal of the custody evaluation is to provide information to the Court that will be helpful to you and your children during the period of pre and post divorce adjustment.

Benefits of the Evaluation

- Parents will be able to express their concerns to a specially trained professional with expertise in divorce, and the impact divorce has on individuals, children and families.
- Evaluator will spend extensive time with each parent in an attempt to understand their concerns and perceptions as to the needs of their children in the present and future.
- Evaluator will spend extensive time with your children in an attempt to understand their current needs, as well as their future needs.
- Evaluator will also spend time with you and your children in an attempt to gain a perspective on each parent's relationship with their children.
- One professional will be working with all family members in an attempt to identify individual and family needs.
- Parents will be assisted in understanding the issues facing their children and how to best lessen the stress of the pre and post divorce adjustments families must make.
- Opportunities will be presented to assist families with solutions and problem solving methods.

Fees and Hours Spent In Doing Evaluation

As each case is unique, Family Service Agency's Center for Counseling cannot predict in advance the time needed to create a comprehensive evaluation for the Court. Charges and terms for payment are as follows:

- A flat fee must be presented prior to the start of the evaluation. The Court shall determine who is responsible for payment. Personal checks are not accepted.
- Because issues for evaluation cannot be determined in advance, a per hour rate will apply after the first 20 evaluation hours.
- Court appearances are by subpoena only. A portal to portal hourly rate will be charged for court appearances and/or depositions. A retainer is required at least five days in advance of the scheduled appearance. If the appearance is cancelled later than 48 hours prior to the appearance, no refund will be given, as the time spent in court requires cancellation of other clients.

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